

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system comprising:  
a female connector [(10; 100)] for operative connection to a baseboard,  
and  
an add-in card [(40)] having a male connector [(44)] on a first edge for receipt by the female connector [(10; 100)] and a notch [(48)] for receipt of a retention formation [(28; 108)] of the female connector (10; 100),  
wherein it further includes a carriage part [(20; 102)] movable along the length of the female connector [(10; 100)] and providing support for the retention formation [(28; 108)].
2. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to claim 1 wherein it further includes on a surface of the carriage part [(20; 102)] adjacent the female connector a locking formation [(22; 106)], and on an outer surface of the female connector a plurality of co-operating locking formations [(18)] spaced apart along the length of the female connector [(10; 100)], such that the carriage part [(20; 102)] is lockable with respect to the female connector [(10; 100)] at a plurality of positions along [it's] its length, and wherein the carriage part [(20; 102)] includes a recess [(30)] in [it's] its upper surface [(20a; 102a)] into which in use an edge of the add-in card [(40)] is received.
3. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to claim 2 wherein the locking formation [(22; 106)] on the carriage part [(20; 102)] is a protrusion, and the locking formations [(18)] on the female connector [(10; 100)] are recesses.

4. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 wherein the retention formation  $[(28)]$  is pivotable between an operative position in which the retention formation  $[(28)]$  is within the notch  $[(48)]$  on the add-in card and acts to retain the add-in card in the female connector and an inoperative position in which the retention formation  $[(28)]$  is free of the notch  $[(48)]$  on the add-in card  $[(40)]$  and the add-in card  $[(40)]$  can be removed from the female connector  $[(10; 100)]$ , and wherein it further includes an arm  $[(26)]$  connected with the retention formation  $[(28)]$  for pivoting of the retention formation  $[(28)]$  between the operative and inoperative positions.

5. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of claim 4~~claim 1 wherein the retention formation  $[(28)]$  is hook shaped.

6. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 wherein the carriage part  $[(102)]$  includes an upwardly extending arm  $[(104)]$  and the retention formation  $[(108)]$  is an inwardly extending protrusion from the upwardly extending arm  $[(104)]$ , and wherein the upwardly extending arm  $[(104)]$  is resiliently deformable, and the retention formation  $[(108)]$  has a cam surface  $[(109)]$  on its upper side such that when the add-in card  $[(40)]$  is inserted into the female connector  $[(100)]$  the upwardly extending arm  $[(104)]$  bends outwardly to permit the retention formation  $[(108)]$  to ride over a leading edge of the notch  $[(48)]$  and then into the notch  $[(48)]$  to retain the add-in card  $[(40)]$  in the female connector  $[(100)]$ .

7. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2 wherein the female connector  $[(100)]$  includes a housing  $[(11)]$  which supports a plurality of electrical contacts  $[(14)]$ , and the co-operating locking formations  $[(18)]$  spaced apart along the length of the female connector  $[(100)]$  are provided on an outer surface of the housing

[[11]] and wherein the carriage part [[102]] is substantially "U" shaped.

8. (currently amended) An I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 6~~claim 2 wherein the female connector [[10]] includes a housing [[11]] which supports a plurality of electrical contacts [[14]], and a cover [[16]] which increases the width of the female connector [[10]] towards ~~[[it's]]~~its upper surface, and the co-operating locking formations [[18]] spaced apart along the length of the female connector [[10]] are provided on an outer surface of the cover [[16]], and wherein the carriage part [[20]] is substantially "C" shaped, and is retained on the female connector by engaging beneath the cover [[16]].

9. (currently amended) A female connector for an I/O expansion system according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A female connector [[10; 100]] specifically adapted for both operative connection to a baseboard and receipt of a male edge connector [[44]] of an add-in card [[40]], wherein it includes a carriage part [[20; 102]] movable along the length of the female connector [[10; 100]] and providing support for a retention formation [[28; 108]] specifically adapted to engage in use with a formation [[48]] on the add-in card [[40]] to retain the male edge connector [[44]] of the add-in card [[40]] in the female connector [[10; 100]].